

Notes from URGWOM Steering Committee Meeting; October 9, 2003; 10:00 AM; Corps of Engineers Conference Room, Albuquerque

In Attendance:

Cyndie Abeyta, USFWS

Roberta Ball, Corps

Steve Bowser, USBR

Charles Braden, BIA

Ellen Dietrich, SAIC/Corps

Don Gallegos, Corps

Debbie Hathaway, SSPA/NMISC

Conrad Keyes, Jr., Consultant to Corps

Jesse Roach, Sandia National Labs

D. Michael Roark, USGS

Nabil Shafike, NMISC

Gail Stockton, Corps

Valda Terauds, USBR

Dave Wilkins, USGS

- ❖ Gail Stockton chaired the meeting and turned it over to Dave Wilkins to discuss the status of the URGWOM Planning Model and Tech Team activities. The list of Technical Team progress that was distributed is attached to the end of these notes.
 - The base run outputs from the Planning Model were sent out to Water Operations Review technical team leaders on October 8.
 - Within about 3 weeks, all of the action alternatives for the EIS should be selected, with the selection procedure documented.
 - The data from the City of Albuquerque diversions have been incorporated into the model.
 - Finalizing the Planning Model to enable screening the scenarios for the action alternatives running the model, and developing the documentation in preparation for the Technical Review Committee have been the primary focus of the URGWOM Technical Team over the past month.
- ❖ Don Gallegos discussed the Planning Model runs and demonstrated the output data generated for the base run and one of the scenarios developed for the Water Operations Review. The scenario he displayed was run with the assumptions of a maximum flow of 1500 cfs below Abiquiu, 20,000 acre-feet of conservation storage in Abiquiu, and a bypass of at least 250 cfs in the river at the Low Flow Conveyance Channel.
 - Data displayed included graphs of storage and releases at Abiquiu, El Vado, Elephant Butte, and Caballo, as well as flows below Abiquiu, at Central in Albuquerque, and at the Low Flow Conveyance Channel.
 - **Question:** How will you meet the requirements of the Biological Opinion to keep water in the river?
 - **Answer:** For the 40-year sequence, the BO requirements cannot be incorporated because it only applies to part of the sequence and no decisions on the source or use of the water can be made.
 - **Question:** How is the release of conservation storage water handled by the model?
 - **Answer:** It is released in the November-December timeframe annually because it must be released by the end of the year. No uses or users of the conservation storage are assumed, but it is expected that the Water Operations Review technical teams will evaluate the opportunities and possibilities for conservation storage water.
 - One conclusion that Don drew from the runs is that it is easy to store 20,000 acre-feet of water in Abiquiu without problems. The maximum storage in Abiquiu in any of the runs was 140,000 acre-

feet. He estimates that channel flows below Abiquiu got as high as 1800 cfs in the base run approximately 30 of the 40 years in the sequence.

- Final Planning Model runs to be completed are the Heron waivers. It is more complicated to set up the model to run waivers for the 40-year sequence because they are not the same for wet and dry years.
- ❖ Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan update—Gail reported that the revised plan has been signed by all cooperators except the IBWC, U.S. Section, to date. She sent the copy for signature to Rong Kuo and anticipates that all signatures will soon be in place.
- ❖ Mike Roark reported that he is waiting for the calibrated MMS model to be installed by the USGS staff in Denver. The computers are set up and ready to go, and he expects the model to be installed for testing soon.
- ❖ Conrad Keyes updated the group on recent activities of the Paso del Norte Watershed Council.
 - Conrad distributed a scope of work to be used as the proposal for funding Phase II of the Cooperative Water Resources Database Project. He requested that Steering Committee members review the scope of work and send any comments to Gail.
 - Another handout was the Final Project Report on Phase I of the Cooperative Water Resources Database Project. This report was presented and discussed at the Council's workshop on September 15, 2003.
 - Two other handouts related to the Watershed Council were the new informational brochure about the organization and a fact sheet summarizing the Database Project.
 - There are now 20 people on the Executive Committee with approximately 45 councilors. Officers include Chair: Sue Watts, Assistant Chair: Julie Maitland, Treasurer: Ari Michelsen, and Secretary: Valerie Provencio.
- ❖ Gail Stockton and Ellen Dietrich discussed plans for the November Technical Review Committee meeting.
 - Invitation letters were mailed to each Technical Review Committee member to announce the meeting. A newsletter publicizing the Technical Review Committee and Water Operations Review Steering Committee meetings, and describing the interaction between URGWOM and the Water Operations Review and EIS will be mailed out next week to a large list of interested stakeholders.
 - The URGWOM Planning Model draft "Base Run Start-up and Initial Conditions Assumptions" documentation developed by the Technical Team will be e-mailed to Technical Review Committee members by Bill Miller on or before October 13. Roberta Ball will post the documentation on the public web site on October 14. Bill e-mailed a draft agenda and meeting announcement to committee members on September 2.
 - Working through the Planning Model for screening the EIS alternatives helped clarify and correct some of the rules. The rules documentation provided for the meeting will be provided in an abbreviated form for now. The Planning Model rules documentation will be separate from but similar to that for the Water Operations Model.
- ❖ Steve Bowser reported that he will be attending a users group meeting for HDB(2) in November and will provide an update to the Steering Committee after that.
- ❖ **The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Steering Committee will be replaced by the Technical Review Committee meeting in the Corps of Engineers' conference room on November 13 from 8:30 a.m. to noon.** Demonstrations of the model will be available from noon to 1:00 p.m. The Water Operations Review and EIS Steering Committee meeting will be held in the afternoon in the same room.

URGWOM TECHNICAL TEAM STATUS AND PROGRESS—DAVE WILKINS

- Base Run Planning Model 40 year run has been completed.
- Base Run Planning Model data for 40 years has been sent to IDT representatives.
- Base Run directory has been “frozen”, i.e. only read access is available to the URGWOM team and all others.
- All (13) preliminary 40-year scenario runs have been completed.
- Draft Planning Model documentation has been reviewed and comments given to Bill Miller. The document is being revised. The documentation will be sent to Technical Review Team members on or before 10/13/03 and posted on the Web shortly after.